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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/563,499	08/24/2006	Michael Halama	RECP:112 US	8286
24041	7590	12/17/2007	EXAMINER	
SIMPSON & SIMPSON, PLLC			BUI, BRYAN	
5555 MAIN STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221-5406			2863	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/17/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/563,499	HALAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Bryan Bui	2863	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5, 10, 12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6-9 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/4/06.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the phraseology "comprises", it should change to --includes-- to avoid the legal phraseology often used in patent claims. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. In claim 2, the term "by a drop in potential" is incomplete. What is potential that applicant want to regards to the invention?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-5, 10, 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hase et al (US 20010030739).

With respect to claim 1, Hase et al teach a device for wafer inspection which comprises a stage for mounting a wafer thereon for inspection, the stage being displaceable in two direction perpendicular to one another (figure 1, wafer stage 35, and figure 2); the stage being provided with a plurality of air nozzles (figures 3, items 47, 49); at least one valve (figure 1, chuck valve 33), at least one electric control unit (figure 1, at least one of 101-104), at least one valve connected to the at least one electric control unit (figure 1, connection between valve chuck in wafer stage to control unit). Hase et al do not implicitly teach wherein the at least one valve is configured so that normal pressure prevail in the air nozzles when the electric control unit delivers a corresponding signal. However, Hase et al disclose wafer stage controller for controlling driving of wafer stage, main controller for controlling whole apparatus sending instruction to prism controller to rotate or stop the wedge prism, controlling the reticle stage controller and wafer stage controller and determining the output signal (par 0046), and flowing gas in flow paths 47 or exhaust gas in flow path 49 using lubricating gas (figure 4) that stator coil and magnet (formed of linear motor as known in the art, see ref

EP 1300932 A2/U.S. Patent No. 6864602 as indicated in search report submitted by applicant in the record) driving for efficiency gas at the atmosphere in the housing (par 0062). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to realize the teachings of Hase et al as mentioned above commonly provide the appropriate flow rate of gas (such pressure flow influence in the flow path controlling by controller unit). The suggestion would make the device prevent the over flow and back flow may occur.

With respect to claims 2-5, as mentioned above, Hase et al teach the features of the claimed invention, and the status and state of the operation signal is effectively by the voltage, current to motor, rotor, coil, driving member, instruction from controller, motor, rotor use for moving the stage along the two displaceable direction (figures 1-2, par 0046).

With respect to claims 10, 12-13, Hase et al further teach the stage comprises a receptacle for inspection of the wafer, at least one valve is provided on the air nozzle/air supply line for flowing/ supplying (figures 1, 3 and par 0061).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 6-9, 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bryan Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-2271. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH from 5:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BB

12/9/2007

BRYAN BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

